

group of Toronto men and women who were friends of the School. The purpose of this Association was to arrange lectures on Modern Drama and to provide opportunities to produce plays. Attached to the worn Minute Book, in the archives, there is a faded envelope containing .70c. It is marked: 'Money belonging to the Association, Oct. 20/23. G. V. Baxter, Sec-Treas'.

From 1920 to 1924, the School functioned with three departments:

The Department of Literature and Dramatic Art.

The Department of English and French.

The Department of Physical Education.

The regular courses of study, based on an entrance requirement of Junior Matriculation, included:

A three year course leading to the 'Diploma of Literature and Expression'.

A two year Normal Course in Literature and Dramatic Art, leading to a 'Teacher's Diploma'.

A two year Normal Course in Physical Education, leading to a 'Teacher's Diploma'.

Non-professional courses provided Certificates on the completion of certain subjects. The tutorial classes in Public Speaking, Voice Production, and Languages were well known and successful. Various study groups were open for leisure time activities. *The Discussion Club* met every Friday morning at twelve o'clock, in the Principal's studio, for formal debates, informal discussions and oratorical contests. *The Reading Club*, under the direction of Miss Charlotte Ross, continued to meet alternate Monday afternoons and Thursday evenings for the study of contemporary authors and 'Literary movements of distinction and charm'. It would be difficult to estimate the influence of this quiet scholarly woman. She joined the Faculty in 1907 and was appointed Vice-Principal in 1916. Her life was devoted to her work, and it was significant in its singleness of purpose.

Through the persistent efforts of Miss Mary G. Harmilton, the Diploma Course in Physical Education became firmly entrenched within the School. Miss Hamilton's Monday Evening Classes in dancing marked one of the early achievements in organized recreation for women in Toronto. The Children's Saturday Morning Dancing Class was another notable institution.

Associated with Miss Hamilton in the teaching of Classical and Interpretive Dancing, were Miss Mildred Marsh and Miss Phyllis Strathy, both talented graduates of the School. Miss Marsh was, in addition, a graduate of the Vestoff-Serova School of Dancing, New York.

A Garden Fête on Saturday June 14, 1924, proved a delightful occasion and featured a demonstration of Drama and Dance. The programme combined a presentation of the plays: *The Boy Will*, under the

direction of Mr. Charles Sparrow; *St. George and the Dragon*, by the St. James Cathedral Players, directed by Mrs. Mavor Moore; and a variety of dances, by the students, under the combined direction of Miss Hamilton, Miss Marsh, and Miss Strathy. The Principal and the School were indebted to Colonel and Mrs. R. Y. Eaton for the use of their lovely grounds at No. 1 Highland Avenue, for this event.

The year 1924-1925 proved to be a year of transition. In September Mrs. Scott Nasmith resigned as Principal of the School. Miss Charlotte Ross was appointed Acting Principal during the interlude. Finally, the summer brought the loss of the School building. The City of Toronto had grown steadily and with it the School itself. Bay Street was under re-construction, and the plans for widening the area called for the removal of the front of the building and the distinctive entrance pillars.

An extract from the *Mail and Empire*, dated June 12, 1925 is as follows:

"Hold Last Gathering In The Old Building"

"The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression last night witnessed the completion of one of the most vital chapters in its history, when the 1925 Commencement was held, and marked the last occasion the present building at Bay and Bloor Streets would be used by the School.

An address was delivered by Reverend C. A. Seager, M.A., D.D., L.L.D., Provost of Trinity College, who spoke on the wonderful vistas which were to be found in the realms of literature and expression, as experienced through the vibrant cord of human personality.

Mrs. H. D. Warren, one of the School's staunchest friends, also spoke to the graduates, and in doing so pointed out that they were about to enter upon the threshold of a career in which the training they had received in literature and expression would play a most important part, be it in the arts, in teaching, or in the home.

Mrs. C. E. Burden, on behalf of her mother, Mrs. Timothy Eaton, presented diplomas and prizes to the graduates.

Vocal selections were very acceptably rendered by Leslie Holmes, with Agnes Best as accompanist."

There were numerous occasions when the late Mrs. C. E. Burden not only represented her mother but also supported the School and encouraged one and all to greater efforts.

In the early summer of 1925 The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression was closed. After considerable re-organization it re-opened at the Extension Building, 415 Yonge Street, as:

The Margaret Eaton School.

In the fall of 1925 Mr. Bertram Forsyth of Hart House Theatre, University of Toronto, assumed the duties of Principal of the School and Director of the Department of Literature and Dramatic Art. Two separate departments were established in the revised institution, each with an administrative head:

The Department of Literature and Dramatic Art.

Director — Mr. Bertram Forsyth, B.A. (Oxon.)

Assistant Director — Mr. Dixon Wagner, B.A. (Oxon.)

The Department of Physical Education.

Director — Miss Mary G. Hamilton.

In the rehabilitation of the building the swimming pool was enlarged and a modern filtration plant installed. The central corridor of the School opened into the new theatre, The Margaret Eaton Hall. The Theatre, at that time, had a capacity of seven hundred and fifty. To-day it is the studio of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on McGill Street where thousands gather each week for the broadcasts, and where the Greek lamps of The Margaret Eaton School may still be seen supplementing the more modern lighting equipment.

Important developments were under way in the Department of Physical Education. On September 5, 1925, the students in the Normal Course in Physical Education met at Camp Tanamakoon in Algonquin Park. This initiated the annual September Camp Training Course which continued until 1948. Camp Tanamakoon, owned and directed by Miss Mary G. Hamilton as a private camp for girls during the summer months, provided an ideal centre for training in sports and camping activities for the students in physical education.

An ambitious programme was undertaken by the Department of Literature and Dramatic Art. An Advisory Committee within the School was composed of: Mr. Bertram Forsyth, Miss Mary G. Hamilton, Mrs. Jessie Alexander Roberts, Miss Anne Hodgkins, Mr. A. Monro Grier, Mr. W. Gordon Mills, and Mr. Ivor R. Lewis. Mr. Lewis was elected Chairman, and Mrs. Roberts Secretary. Items of interest from the Minutes of several Committee meetings include:

September 24, 1925.

"Moved by Mrs. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Mills: that the workmen engaged in the theatre should be invited to witness the first play, *Cæsar and Cleopatra*, the week of October 5, to 10. Carried."

November 3, 1925.

"Mr. Wagner was requested to send a letter of thanks to Colonel Deacon for allowing the use of his grounds to the Physical Education students."

December 1, 1925.

"It was reported that eighteen out-of-town students were boarding outside the Residence, and that twelve of these would avail themselves of Residence accommodation if it were provided. The Advisory Committee strongly recommended that a larger residence be secured."

There were thirty-nine first year students enrolled in the Department of Physical Education for the School year 1925-1926. There were nine

students in the Department of Literature and Dramatic Art. Consequently, following the Commencement Exercises on May 29, 1926, the Department of Literature and Dramatic Art was discontinued.

The death of Mr. Bertram Forsyth, in the early summer of 1926, came as a shock to his many friends.

Miss Mary Thrall, who had been the Secretary of the School for nineteen years, retired. During those years she lived for the School, her gracious manner and deep interest in the welfare of both students and Faculty were recognized by all. It is not unusual to-day for former members of the School to drive through Woodstock, Ontario, in order to say "*Hello*" to her and recall the past. Miss Thrall was succeeded by Miss Charlotte H. Layton, B.A., a graduate of Acadia University.

Believing that Physical Education is an integral part of the social and moral development of the individual, Miss Mary G. Hamilton assumed the duties of Director of the School. The name, The Margaret Eaton School was retained. The School now provided a Normal Course in Physical Education. The motto was changed to:

KΑΛΛΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΤΕΡΙΑ

'Beauty and Fitness.'

The Discobolus was adopted as the School crest.

Under Miss Hamilton's administration the School held an increasingly important position in the field of Physical Education. The curriculum emphasized the study of Literature, and included Voice Training and an introductory course in Dramatics.

To the students, who for the most part, were happily unaware of executive difficulties, the life and work of the School were stimulating and satisfying experiences. On the Faculty at this time, the name of Miss Mona Langtree, stood alone. Typical of the undergraduate sentiment is this fragment of a song from 1925:

"In Basketball you may be good
But don't cross Lanky,
She will make you feel just like
The head upon a pin.
She's the kind of teacher
Excuses never reach her,
Frank and swanky,
You'll like Lanky,
She's from M.E.S."

Other names of renown among the Faculty included: Mr. Leon Leonidoff, Russian Ballet; Madame Madeleine Boss Lasserre, Eurythmics; and Miss Josephine Barrington, Theory of Expression and Costume.

The annual Demonstration of Physical Education, given by the students, was an important feature of the School year. These demonstrations, several

of which were held in the Mutual Street and Varsity Arenas, provided not only a source of inspiration for the graduates, but also standards of performance for the profession.

Gymnastics and the Theory of Gymnastics probably have seldom been taught so conscientiously as during the regime of Miss Charlotte Kaulbach (Mrs. H. M. Fierro), which immediately followed the work of Miss Langtry. Miss Kaulbach was quiet and sympathetic in manner but exacting and meticulous in the gymnasium.

Classes in Games and Dancing with Mrs. Laura Cuyle Geddes were instructed in the true spirit of play. With Mrs. Geddes nothing was ever dull or drab.

Excellent work in Physical Education was conducted by Miss Flora Musgrave, a graduate of The Margaret Eaton School; Miss Irene Thomson, a graduate of the Sargent School, Boston; and Miss Lilabel Sloat, a graduate of the Chicago Normal School of Physical Education. A programme of Creative Dances, presented in April 1932 by the students, under the direction of Miss Sloat, combined drama and dance, in its then most modern form.

Other important Instructors included: Miss Lilian Pollard of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, England; Miss Elva Miller, a graduate of The Margaret Eaton School; and Miss Lesley M. Urwick, a graduate of Chelsea College of Physical Education, London, England.

On formal occasions the adopted School song:

"Forty years on, when afar and asunder

Parted are those who are singing to-day"

was rendered with enthusiasm and mixed emotions. This was an established tradition until it was superseded by the 'M.E.S.' parody. The popular version, written by Miss Madge Brewster (Mrs. Stuart R. Eagleton), Class of '27, was as follows:

"Forty years on holy smoke just imagine
Won't it be awful to be old and fat?
Grandchildren screaming and yelling around you,
Or, sitting all alone with your parrot and your cat.

Then you will say: 'It's my candid opinion,
The younger generation is going to the dogs,
Just the other day
With my own eyes I saw it—
Several young girls drinking wicked eggnogs!!

Old and fat, old and fat, old and fat,
Will we ever be resigned to our fate—
Sedentary life and putting on weight."

This parody became so entrenched that it was necessary for those in authority to substitute Robert Louis Stevenson's "Land of Our Birth", as the formal School hymn.

Dundonald House, supervised over a period of years by such memorable women as Mrs. Reid, Miss Elliott, Miss Betts, and Miss Knowles, continued as the residence for the School. While *Dundonald House* retained its inherent charm, the character of mid-town Toronto had gradually changed. In addition, space in the house had become so inadequate that extra rooms in nearby homes were required. A new site for the residence was imperative. *St. George House*, 119 St. George Street—now the headquarters of the University of Toronto Contingent Canadian Officers Training Corps, was eventually acquired. Assistance was generously given by the T. Eaton Company Limited in furnishing the main floor of this new residence. With the opening of *St. George House*, Mrs. F. Grant Marriott, A.T.C.M., was welcomed to The Margaret Eaton School, to be in charge of the residence.

During the decade, 1924-1934, Miss Hamilton constantly endeavoured to secure the future of Physical Education by the co-ordination of The Margaret Eaton School with the resources of the University of Toronto. Miss Hamilton continued to conduct Camp Tanamakoon during the summer months, and to direct the activities of the School during the winter months. The demands of this double assignment were not relieved until the appointment of an 'Acting Director' in 1931. Miss Genevieve T. Barber, M.A., a graduate of Northwestern University, who had been a member of the Faculty from 1921 to 1924, returned to assist Miss Hamilton for the year 1931-1932. Following Miss Barber's resignation in 1932, Miss Florence A. Somers joined the Faculty. It was understood that Miss Somers would serve as Associate Director for the first year and then take full responsibility as Director of the School the following year.

Miss Somers came to Toronto well prepared for this position. She received her B.Sc. in Education from Boston University and her M.A. in Physical Education from New York University. Prior to her work in Toronto she had been Associate Director of the Sargent School in Boston, and Assistant Director in the Massachusetts Department of Education.

At the close of the School year, much to the regret of all concerned, Miss Hamilton gave up her work at the School to devote her energies to the education and welfare of the campers and counsellors attending Camp Tanamakoon. The annual Alumnae luncheon, and farewell party to Miss Hamilton, was held in Wymilwood, 84 Queen's Park Crescent on May 25, 1933.

Miss Somers now became the Director of the School and under her leadership it grew and prospered. Sound in her thinking, and essentially tolerant in her attitude, Miss Somers quietly guided the life of the School into new paths.

She was ably assisted by Miss Layton, who continued as the Secretary of the School. Miss Layton was always sympathetic and treated with loving kindness, students, graduates and faculty alike. She listened to one and all and provided solutions for many difficulties.

While Miss Layton was active in the School office, Mrs. Marriott controlled life in the residence. By 1936 the residence, which was still known as *St. George House*, had been moved to 186 St. George Street. Finally, in 1938, due to each building in turn being required by the owners for other purposes, *St. George House* opened at 99 St. George Street. This house had formerly been the residence of St. Hilda's College of the University of Toronto. It was due in no small measure to the skill and resourcefulness of Mrs. Marriott, that each residence in turn proved to be unusually attractive, and at the same time functional.

Student Government was first organized in the residence at 39 Dundonald Street. It was introduced by Miss Hamilton in 1926 to the School at large. On October 15, 1937, the undergraduates met at Assembly in the theatre and decided to revise the Constitution of The Margaret Eaton School Athletic Association. The change in name from *Athletic Association* to *Activities Association* was made to correspond to the new series of Clubs suggested by the students. The seven Clubs, organized during the first year, were: The Outing Club, Orchesis, Riding Club, Literary Club, Badminton Club, Music Club and Camera Club.

Hart House Theatre was the setting for a Recital of Modern Dance by the students, under the direction of Miss Marion Hobday (Mrs. Evelyn P. S. Allen), in May, 1936. To Miss Hobday, Dance was fundamental to living. The programme represented both individual and group efforts on the part of the students, in illustrating Dance as a communal art.

The Christmas Holiday *Refresher Course in Physical Education* became an Alumnae tradition. It was then that graduates and teachers, from other Schools, from far and wide, gathered at 415 Yonge Street for three days of intensive work, and perhaps more important, true comradeship.

The steady growth of the Alumnae Association was, in no small measure, due to the unselfish and untiring efforts of Miss Layton. Without fail, four times a year, the *M.E.S. Newsletter* was written and sent out to the graduates. The Officers of the Association for 1953 were: President, Miss Helen Ricker; Secretary, Miss Barbara Jones; Treasurer, Mrs. Beatrice Brammall; and Chairman of the Bursary Committee, Miss Helen Parsons. Two M.E.S. Alumnae Bursaries were awarded in 1953, to undergraduate women in the Sophomore and Senior years respectively, of the School of Physical and Health Education.

The growth of the Alumnae Association was paralleled by the expansion of the library facilities within the School. The nucleus of the library was

formed by the valuable collection of books from the Departments of Literature, Language, and Dramatic Art.

Early in the year 1940 The Margaret Eaton School mourned the death of Emma Scott Nasmith. The following is part of the tribute which appeared in *Saturday Night* at that time:

"In many parts of Canada regret was felt at the death of Mrs. George Nasmith of Toronto, formerly Mrs. Emma Scott Raff, head of The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression.

That the Little Theatre has become so active a cultural factor in every part of Canada is, in part at least, due to the seeds she sowed. Her pupils scattered to every part of Canada and carried with them the inspiration provided by her productions of literary drama. She was, for instance, the first to present in this country the plays of W. B. Yeats, Lady Gregory and other pioneers of the Irish Literary theatre, as well as those of Tagore. It was with two of Yeats' most exquisite plays that her School won the Earl Grey Dramatic Trophy in 1910. When Hart House Theatre was established after the first Great War, its forces were in part recruited from young men and women trained under her; and some of the best elder talent which has figured in the Dominion Drama Festivals of recent years received its first training at The Margaret Eaton School.

Mrs. Nasmith was a woman of generous heart and organizing ability. Her enthusiasm for cultural interests was unlimited and infectious. Canadian civilization owes her a debt that should not be forgotten."

A graduate of 1937, Miss Shirley Naylor (Mrs. Cressy McCatty) joined the Faculty in 1939. She will be long remembered for her skill in wood carving and camp activities. Many are the happy recollections of M.E.S. days, and always the Septembers spent at Camp Tanamakoon hold a special place in the thoughts of the Alumnae.

The annual publication of the School Magazine, *M.E.S. AMIES*, was a highlight of each year, and a somewhat demanding literary undertaking. This work was, for the most part, supervised by Miss Elizabeth Wardley (Mrs. Ralph Raymer). In addition to her lectures and classes in physical education, Mrs. Raymer was responsible for much of the fine school spirit. She wrote many humorous skits as well as treasured Camp and School songs. On the occasion of the final demonstration, given by the students in the Eaton Auditorium on Thursday May 22, 1941, the theme of the programme was written and read by Mrs. Raymer. It was as follows:

Life we were given and precious we hold
We must strengthen that gift a hundred-fold—
Strengthen that gift that we may live
Fearlessly, surely, with something to give.
Eagerly groping for her task
These are the questions that youth must ask:

Show us a need we can fulfil
Show us a sorrow we may distil
Show us a weakness we can mend
Show us the cause we must defend!

Show us the meaning and all of life
Show us the way and point us a path
Show us the things that are worthy and true
Show us the things that we must do!

Now we see a world in sorrow
Bravely marching toward the morrow
Our young strength might strength renew
Deep in the heart of that long review
Marching, marching, into Time
Find us places in that line!

Let us join the measured beat
Which will take our eager feet
On the path where trials meet
Point out the foes we must defeat!

Life fill us with living; assign us our parts
Try out our courage and test our young hearts
Leave us not empty and fraught with despair
Give us our burdens, our travail to bear!

Questioning, querying, begging, beseeching
Into the future with eager hands reaching
Tell us oh life, what we can do.
These are the things we bring to you,

These are the gifts we have to bring
To humbly place as offering—
Arms that are strong and long to endure
Feet that are steady and light and sure
Ears that are tuned to life's voiceless cries
Eyes that scan keenly life's worried skies
Thoughts that are searching the mysterious blue
Straining and yearning for life's greatest truths
Love which compels us, holds us, and binds
Us to our country, our people, our kind.

Questioning, querying, begging, beseeching
Into the future our eager hands reaching
These are the things we bring to you
Tell us, oh Life, what can we do!

Elizabeth Wardley Raymer

Concurrent with the changes in The Margaret Eaton School, modifications in the curriculum of physical education at the University of Toronto, were under consideration. Mr. Warren Stevens, Director of Athletics for Men at the University, was interested in a reorganization of the Department to include a professional course in physical education for men. At the same time, Dr. E. Stanley Ryerson, Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, enthusiastically endorsed the idea of a Department of Health Assessment and Promotion, in conjunction with Physical Education.

Combining these suggestions with the Diploma Course in Physical Education for Women, which was a well established unit within the University, a new Course was organized in 1940. This was first named: *A Course in Physical Education*. It was open to both men and women. The following year The Margaret Eaton School was merged with this Department to become a School within the University of Toronto, The School of Physical and Health Education. At the Commencement Exercises of The Margaret Eaton School, May 23, 1941, the merging of the School within the University of Toronto was formally announced.

The Margaret Eaton School was a gift from the Board of Directors of the T. Eaton Company Limited to the University of Toronto. Provision was made for the University to continue to hold the premises at 415 Yonge Street as a centre for classes in physical education for the women students.

The residence at 99 St. George Street, which was under the jurisdiction of Miss Florence A. Somers, was closed. The furnishings were given to the Women's Residences of University College.

With the termination of the School, a substantial sum of money, representing in part the surplus which had accumulated under the direction of Miss Somers, was given by the T. Eaton Company Limited to the University of Toronto to be used to furnish and maintain a Library in memory of Mrs. Timothy Eaton, the founder of The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression. In addition, the following memorial scholarships were established:

First Year

The First, Second and Third Margaret Eaton Scholarships, the gift of the T. Eaton Company Limited in memory of Mrs. Timothy Eaton, founder of The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression, of the value of \$250, \$150, and \$100 respectively, will be awarded to the students who rank first, second and third in Grade A, with at least Grade B in English.



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